



# Oil Spill Program Update

The U.S. EPA's Oil Program Center Report

## Communications

The Oil Program Center is developing an outreach communications strategy to keep the Regions, businesses, industries and other regulated communities informed on the progress of the program and the significant outcomes. One component of this plan is the debut of the "EPA's Oil Spill Program Update," a spin-off from EPA's former OPA 90 Update. It will be produced quarterly, with information coming from the regions in response to their needs.

Another component, "The Oil

Drop," is a more informal journal and it will be produced twice a year. With the "Oil Spill Update," our goal is to provide straightforward information to keep EPA Regional staff, other Federal agencies and departments, industries and businesses, and the regulated community up to speed with the latest developments. "The Oil Drop," will target a broader audience including concerned citizens and environmental groups as part of educational outreach efforts. Both will be available on the Oil Program Homepage at: <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill> and will also be distributed in hard copy.



The participants included Federal and some state regulators and representatives of the oil, shipping, and response industries. The workshop discussed changes in the PREP proposed by USCG in a Federal Register notice, and clarified issues that arose during the three years of PREP's implementation. One of the speakers in the event, David López, OERR's Oil Center Director, presented EPA's view of PREP and its future direction. The only EPA Regional office represented was Region 5, with Ann Whelan and Sheila Calovich taking the lead on several issues discussed in addition to giving a demonstration of computer software designed to assist exercise planners in the development of unannounced exercise scenarios. The workshop was also attended by a number of Oil Center headquarters staff. A summary of the issues, resolutions, and recommendations from the workshop will be distributed to participants.

Some of the debated topics of the program included unannounced drills, state and federal agency participation in PREP, and a process for the ongoing review of

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## The Prep Workshop:

A National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) workshop sponsored by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) was held in Alexandria, Virginia on August 6-7. The PREP implements the Federal and some state response Oil Pollution Act (OPA) exercise requirements.

the program.

Workshop participants, according to Faith Yando, editor of the Oil-Spill Intelligence Report®<sup>1</sup>, agreed to recommend some minor changes to PREP. Here is the summary of her comments:

- Some participants argued that quarterly qualified individual (QI) notification drills for facilities are unnecessary. They proposed changing the requirement so that the PREP guidelines outline a consistent standard for all QI drills. The guidelines require annual QI drills only for vessel owners. After much discussion pro and con, the group voted 25-13 to recommend the change.
- Many participants noted that the lack of or inadequacy of Area Contingency Plans (ACP) is hindering PREP. As a result, the group recommends that all agencies put a renewed emphasis on the ACP process and that this process be used for distributing lessons learned from drills.
- The group agreed to:
  1. Review of PREP through a meeting held every year or

2. year and a half. Approach the four agencies (US EPA, USCG, US Minerals Management Service and the US Research and Special Program Administration), about giving planholders some warning of impending unannounced exercises; suggestions on the amount of time needed ranged from 10 days to 30 days.
  3. Discuss at a future meeting whether the requirement to drill for a worst-case discharge is adequate or needs to be changed.
  4. Discuss at a future meeting the area exercise schedule and determine whether the current plan is appropriate or needs to be changed.
- The group encouraged states to participate in PREP and explore ways to increase this participation.

## **Federal Facilities Conference**

Steve Calanog, in Region 9, presented an overview of EPA's SPCC and OPA program to approximately 70 representatives of Federal facilities. "Managing Federal Activities to Promote Healthy Ecosystems" was this year's Region 9 Federal Facilities Conference theme. The conference, held on June 24-26, 1997, in San Francisco, limited to Federal agencies' environmental managers and staff, was intended to assist Federal facilities'

environmental management and decision making practices. The purpose of the conference was to provide the latest information about environmental activities (regulations, technology, compliance, planning, and cultural and natural resources) to administrators and environmental managers of Federal agencies and facilities. The majority of attendees were from Department of Defense facilities; however, representatives from Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and General Services Administration were also present. Mr. Calanog also discussed the proposed changes to the SPCC and FRP rules which should be published for public comment this coming Fall. The floor was also opened for Q&A's, generating lively discussion. This conference proved to be an excellent opportunity to address a large segment of our regulated community.

## **EPA's Inland-Freshwater Oil Spills Symposium**

Ann Whelan in EPA's Region 5 is taking the lead in the organization of the Freshwater Spills Symposium and orchestrating with EPA's Oil Program Headquarters as well as Regions 6, 7, and 9, the many logistics for the upcoming event. A design team composed of the American Petroleum Institute (API), U.S. Corps. of

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Engineers, Regions 6, 7, and 9, U.S. C.G., NOAA, and Fish and Wildlife Service (Department of the Interior), has been selected to work together on a central theme for the symposium and the selection of speakers, among other tasks. The list of potential topics includes rivers, lakes, wetlands, countermeasures, tools and techniques, natural resources, prevention, and case studies. The symposium is set for March 3-5, 1998, in St. Louis, Missouri. A draft brochure and an agenda will be prepared by the end of November.

## ***Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Question & Answer***

Since only Region 5 and few industry groups were able to attend the PREP Workshop, we thought to include the Q & A's regarding the PREP Program, courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard.

### ***What is PREP?***

The National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) is a multi-agency program to exercise and evaluate

government area contingency plans and industry spill response plans. The exercise program meets the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) mandate for exercise and represents minimum guidelines for ensuring overall preparedness within the response community. It should be viewed as an opportunity for continuous improvement of the response plans and the response system.

### ***Who developed the PREP Guidelines?***

The PREP was developed as a coordinated effort of the four federal agencies with responsibility for pollution response preparedness—the USCG, the US EPA, Department of Transportation's Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), and the Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS). These agencies worked with federal, state, and local governments, the oil and marine transportation industry, cleanup contractors, and the general public to develop the program. PREP meets the intent of OPA recognizing the economic and operational constraints of those affected by the exercise requirements. To solicit input from all parties involved, public workshops were held which resulted in the PREP Guidelines. The Guidelines outline an exercise program that satisfies the exercise requirements of the four federal regulatory agencies.

### ***Who participates in PREP?***

PREP is a voluntary program. Participation in the PREP will satisfy the exercise requirements of

the USCG, EPA, RSPA, and MMS, and therefore, is applicable to their regulated communities. If a plan holder does not choose to follow the PREP guidelines, then the plan holder must meet the exercise requirements mandated by the federal agency with regulatory oversight for the specific type of industry.

### ***What are Internal Exercises?***

Internal exercises are held wholly within the plan holder's organization. These exercises do not usually involve other members of the response community. These exercises are designed to examine the adequacy of various components of the response plan. All internal exercises should be self-evaluated and self-certified. The internal exercises include:

- ▶ Qualified Individual Notification
- ▶ Emergency Procedures for Vessels and Barges
- ▶ Emergency Procedures for Facilities (Optional)
- ▶ Spill Management Team Tabletop Exercises
- ▶ Equipment Deployment Exercises
- ▶ Unannounced Exercises (not a separate exercise)

Every three years all components of the entire response plan must be exercised. It is not necessary to exercise them at the same time; therefore, PREP allows the flexibility to exercise different components over a triennial period. The plan holder is responsible for documenting the components completed in the exercises.

### ***What are External Exercises?***

External exercises involve the plan holder and other members of the response community. They are used to evaluate the response plan and the plan holder's ability to coordinate with the response community to conduct an effective response to a pollution incident. The external exercises include:

- ▶ Government-Initiated Unannounced Exercise
- ▶ Area Exercise

### ***What is an Area Exercise?***

The Area exercise is designed to exercise the government/industry interface for pollution response. An area is defined as "that geographic area for which a separate and distinct Area Contingency Plan has been prepared, as described in OPA 90."

The goal of PREP is to conduct 18 Area exercises per year—6 government-led and 12 industry-led exercises. The exercise is designed by an exercise design team comprising of representatives from Federal, state, and local governments, and industry. The "lead plan holder" leads the Area exercise. The exercise design should be done as a cooperative effort; however, the lead plan holder has the primary voice and final decision authority in the exercise design. In the case of the six government-led exercises, either the USCG or EPA is the lead plan holder.

An industry plan holder that participates in an Area exercise would not be required to participate in another exercise for a minimum of six years. Plan holders are responsible for funding

their participation in the Area exercise.

### ***What is involved in an Area Exercise?***

The Area Exercise does not have to be, nor is it expected to be, a big production. They should be approximately 8-12 hours long and involve some amount of equipment deployment. The extent of equipment should be determined by the lead plan holder, in consultation with the exercise design team.

### ***Who pays for the exercise?***

Each participant, industry or government, pays for its participation in the exercise. To reduce the cost to industry, PREP encourages multiple industries to participate in an exercise. In addition to cost sharing, industries have the opportunity to work together during a non-crisis event and become better acquainted with each other's response capabilities.

### ***Can I get credit for an actual spill response?***

Yes, if the spill response was evaluated in accordance with the PREP guidelines, then the plan holder may take credit for an exercise. Following the PREP guidelines, the plan holders should determine which exercises were conducted, which components of the response plan were evaluated, and then document them.

Credit may be given to a plan holder for an Area exercise under the following conditions: (1) the response plan was utilized in an actual spill response; (2) the

response involved the entire response community; (3) the response met the objectives of the Area exercise; and (4) the response was properly documented and certified.

The National Scheduling Coordinating Committee (NSCC) is responsible for



authorizing credit for an

Area exercise. The NSCC is composed of representatives from USCG, EPA, RSPA and MMS. The decision regarding credit will be based on the recommendations of the On-Scene Coordinator and appropriate USCG District/EPA Region.

### ***How can my company volunteer for an exercise?***

An industry interested in participating in a government-led Area exercise or leading an industry-led Area exercise should contact either the appropriate Captain of the Port or the EPA Region.

### ***Where can I get more information?***

The final PREP Guidelines booklet is available at no charge by writing to or faxing: TASC Dept. Warehouse, 3341 Q 75th Ave., Landover, MD 20785, fax: 301-386-5394. The publication number is USCG-X0191.

The Training Reference for Oil Spill Response is also available through the warehouse. The

publication number is USCG-X0188.

For more information, contact the NSCC at 2100 2nd. St., SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001 or call Karen Sahatjian at 202-267-2850 or e-mail: ksahatjian@comdt.uscg.mil.

## Success of the SPCC Program

About 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel spilled at a tank farm in Newington early Sunday, August 31.

Deputy Chief Jack Brown, of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, said a worker was filling a diesel storage tank at the Crown Petroleum terminal at the Newington Tank Farm about 2 a.m. when the tank overflowed, spilling about 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

The fuel tank, which can hold up to 900,000 gallons, overflowed. A concrete dike designed to contain such overflows or leaks stopped the spill, which was cleaned up by Crown Petroleum.

Brown said authorities are investigating whether an alarm that is supposed to sound when a tank gets close to full was working when the accident occurred.

Brown said bulk storage tanks at the facility are surrounded by containment dikes designed to hold more than each tank's capacity. All

the spilled oil was contained in one of the dikes. The tank farm, located in an industrial-commercial area, is one of two in Fairfax County. The other is near Fairfax City.

## GIS/Mapping Workgroup Meeting

On August 26-28, the Oil Program Center led a National Oil and Hazardous Substances GIS/Mapping Meeting at OERR's Crystal Gateway Offices in Arlington, Virginia. Staff and representatives from 9 Regions, OERR, OSWER/CEPPO, Superfund, DOT's Office of Pipeline Safety, and ESRI (a leading GIS software vendor) were in attendance. Key issues discussed included data collection, primarily related to environmentally sensitive areas; map representation such as icon symbology and colors; metadata; data accuracy and standards; facility tracking systems; and software and hardware options. Follow-up actions include establishing an Intranet site for better communication between the Regions, documenting data layers, sources, and accuracies for existing data; and further discussing relevant issues such as data standards and symbology. A follow-up meeting was tentatively



planned for early in calendar year 1998.

## States Column

### MAJOR OIL SPILL IN Region 5.

On Sunday evening, August 24, 1997, a break in a 22" Marathon Oil pipeline resulted in the discharge of 470,000 gallons (11,200 barrels) of crude oil. The spill occurred in Rosedale, Indiana, located approximately 20 miles northeast of Terre Haute. Because the spill was initially reported as much smaller, EPA personnel did not go to the scene immediately.

Employees at Marathon's headquarters in Findlay, Ohio noticed a pressure drop in the pipeline at about 4 p.m. Sunday, August 24. They shut down the pumps immediately and found the leak in the agricultural fields in Rosedale.

Marathon Oil and their contractors responded immediately by shutting down the pipeline and preventing the spill from entering the nearby Big Raccoon River. The responders contained the oil to a 36 acre area, mostly agricultural fields. An effective emergency response removed 90% of the oil, from the approximately 67,000 gallons that were spilled.

EPA Region 5 On Scene Coordinator Stavros Emmanouil arrived on the scene, Tuesday morning, August 26, and





monitored the responsible party's activities. Other Federal and state agencies on the scene included the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Marathon Oil's quick response minimized the amount of damage to wildlife. Marathon identified the source of Sunday's leak, a 132-inch section of pipe located under an abandoned railroad grade, but the cause remains unknown.

Officials say it could take months before the cleanup is complete. Toward that end, Marathon has increased the size of its cleanup crew. Marathon employees and contract personnel continued the recovery efforts with seven vacuums, and took additional steps to make sure the crude oil was contained and did not reach nearby Big Raccoon Creek. OERR continued to monitor the situation.

## Bilingual SPCC Fact Sheet

Region 2 has translated SPCC rules for the interested Spanish speaking regulated community. Short, one-page fact sheets are available in hard copy or electronic file (WordPerfect). Please feel free to contact Arlene Anderson at 732-906-6803 or Beatriz M. Oliveira, Oil Program HQ, at 703-603-1229.

## On-Scene Coordinator

## Training

The 1997 Readiness Training Program for OSCs will take place November 17-21, in Galveston Texas at the Texas A&M University Conference Center. The Oil Program Center continues to participate in the development of training workshops for OSCs. OSCs will be able to choose from over 20 courses that will help them learn the skills needed to perform in the field, along with resource utilization and technical training. There will be an emphasis on Trustee-OSC coordination during the Galveston workshop. For more information, please contact Anne Spencer at 703-603-8716.

Speaking of workshops, there is an ERT Inland Oil Spill course planned for October 26-31 in Novato, California. This course is designed for OSC's from EPA, the U.S. Coast Guard, and state agencies who are involved in inland oil spill prevention and cleanup. The course, which covers portions of the legislation in the National Contingency Plan and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, provides practical information for control and cleanup of inland oil spills. You may contact Robyn Burke or Katie Embry at 513-251-7669 to sign up for the course.

Another Oil Inspector Training workshop will be given during the week of November 2-7 in Seattle, Washington. Registrations are being taken by Carl Kitz, in



Region 10. You can reach him at 206-553-1671.

## REPORT OIL/HAZARDOUS WASTE SPILLS→

**1-800-424-8802**

